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SECURITY INFORMATION

Air

MOQA-7185

MAY 20 1953

Chief of Mission, Frankfurt

ATTN: Bonn

Chief, EM

INFO: BOB

FRAN

Operational/GALL

Utilization of East Zone Church Personalities for
Operational Activity

REF: MOHA-1175

1. We are interested in your proposal to recruit and train some DDR church members as discussed in the reference. However, in view of the request in MOQA-12512, any further approaches to CAGE, CALSBE or SHARP should be coordinated in advance with

2. If approved by the German Mission as consonant with other KUBARK operations involving the DDR Protestant church, the recruitment and training of inconspicuous church members for use as s/t operators, letter-drops or safe houses would enable these persons to support and provide communications for a variety of operations. It should, however, be realized that the DDR church and its members will probably be generally suspect and subject to special controls by the opposition. For this reason, extreme care should be taken in selecting potential recruits for stay-behind purposes and to choose individuals who have not been publicly identified with the church leadership or its spiritual resistance activities.

3. Suitable persons could be relegated to a sleeper category until such a future time as their activation was considered desirable. In other words, they could be regarded as quasi-staybehind - to be activated after hostilities; or they might be activated to provide support for our operations in the DDR in the case that border controls became so severe as to virtually seal off the East Zone from the West. We do believe, however, that the work of these men (or women) should be limited to non-intelligence-collecting activities in order to reduce the security hazards to them and in order to limit as much as possible the political aspects of their work for us. Many a good churchman might be willing to provide aid and

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haven to a fellow-man, or a pair along messages (particularly if these messages were encoded therefore meaningless to him) while talking at active intelligence collecting.

4. Persons with ready and natural access to the various religious institutions and to the general public might be ideal cut-outs, letter drops, w/ operators, etc. In addition, the possibilities of using churches or church properties for caching and rendezvous points are obvious; of course, the possibly serious implications of such action would have to be considered and accepted as a calculated risk before such action could be taken.

5. We should like to point out that persons selected for possible operational use should receive special consideration on such points as stigmatism and relative free intercourse with the general public.

6. We believe such an operation, if it ever gets off the ground, could best be run from GCHQ.

7. Please advise us of the results of any approaches to ACTHAF or GCHQ.

11 May 1953

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